

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend the claims to read as follows:**

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1. (Amended) A method in a computer network of controlling an admittance of requests to at least one processing component, said method comprising:

evaluating an amount of traffic in said network;

determining whether said amount exceeds a preset threshold;

if said amount exceeds said threshold, differentiating a type of said requests based on a content in each said request; and

admitting said each request only if said differentiated type meets at least one criterion for admission.

2. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

returning a message to a sender of each said request not admitted.

3. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

evaluating at least one criterion in said computer network; and

performing said differentiation based on said evaluation.

4. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, wherein said method is embodied in a software program, wherein said admittance to said at least one processing component is gained through one or more entry points, said method further comprising:

activating said software program in at least one of said one or more entry points.

S/N 09/916,513

IBM Docket: YOR920010330US1

5. (Original claim) The method of claim 4, wherein said at least one processing component comprises a plurality of processing components, said at least one or more entry points comprises a plurality of web servers, and said activation of said software program occurs in each web server in said plurality of web servers, thereby providing an admittance method that is distributed.

6. (Original claim) The method of claim 4, wherein said software program comprises a plugin software module.

7. (Original claim) The method of claim 3, wherein said at least one evaluation criterion comprises a measurement of activity on said network.

8. (Original claim) The method of claim 7, wherein said measurement of activity comprises a measurement of requests to said at least one processing component.

9. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one criterion for admission comprises evaluation of a response time.

10. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prioritizing said requests within a same type, based on further refinement of said content.

11. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, wherein said computer network comprises a distributed heterogeneous computing environment having a dependency of said processing components represented.

12. (Original claim) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
determining a load imposed on a dependee processing component.

13. (Original claim) The method of claim 12, wherein said load determination is performed in a central location.

14. (Original claim) The method of claim 12, wherein said at least one criterion for admission comprises said determined load on said dependee component.

15. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
associating a user defined response with selected ones of said requests that are not admitted.

16. (Original claim) The method of claim 11, wherein said admission control is applied at a tier to control admittance to a next processing component along a request flow path.

17. (Original claim) A method of claim 11, where said at least one criterion for admission comprises a determination that a dependee processing component is not currently available.

S/N 09/916,513  
IBM Docket: YOR920010330US1

18. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a load of a target processing component; and

altering a normal response to a request based on said load determination.

19. (Original claim) The method of claim 1, wherein said admitting of said each request is distributed.

20. (Amended) A method of controlling the admittance of requests to at least one processing component in a distributed heterogeneous computing environment, each said request comprising a direction component and a message component, said method comprising:

receiving a request;

measuring an amount of activity on said computing environment;

determining whether said activity amount exceeds a threshold amount;

if said threshold amount is exceeded, evaluating at least a part of said message

component of said received request; and

providing an admission of said received request based on said evaluation.

21. (Original claim) The method of claim 20, wherein said environment comprises a network and said direction component comprises a location information relative to said network.

S/N 09/916,513

IBM Docket: YOR920010330US1

22. (Cancel)

23. (Cancel)

24. (Original claim) The method of claim 20, wherein said admission evaluation is distributed at multiple points in said distributed heterogeneous computing environment.

25. (Original claim) The method of claim 20, wherein said evaluation of at least a part of said message component comprises an evaluation of a response time for said request.

26. (Currently amended) A request throttler in a computer network that controls an admittance of requests to at least one processing component, said request throttler comprising:

a threshold detector to determine whether an activity on said computer network exceeds a preset amount;

a differentiator to evaluate a message content of each of said requests, if said preset amount is exceeded; and

a switch to admit said each request only if said evaluation passes at least one criterion for admission.

27. (Original claim) The request throttler of claim 26, wherein said differentiator and said switch comprises a set of computer instructions.

28. (Original claim) The request throttler of claim 27, wherein said set of computer instructions comprises a software plugin.

29. (Original claim) The request throttler of claim 26, wherein said differentiator and said switching functions are distributed in said network.

30. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a set of computer-readable instructions for a method in a computer network of controlling an admittance of requests to at least one processing component, said method comprising:

determining whether an amount of network traffic exceeds a preset amount;

if said preset amount is exceeded, differentiating a type of said requests based on a content in each said request; and

admitting said each request only if said differentiated type meets at least one criterion for admission.

31. (Currently amended) A computer network comprising:

a request throttler for controlling an admittance of requests to at least one processing component and comprising a differentiator to evaluate a message content of each of said requests and a switch to admit said each request only if said evaluation passes at least one criterion for admission, <sup>in part</sup> wherein said request throttler is invoked only if an amount of traffic on said computer network exceeds a preset amount.

32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said admittance of said requests is handled by a content handler when said amount of traffic is below said preset threshold, said content handler comprising a Layer 4 Load Balancing (L4LB) component to distribute said requests as based on a Uniform Request Locator (URL) rather than an information content of said requests.

33. (New) The request throttler of claim 26, further comprising:

a content handler that handles said requests when said amount of traffic is below said preset threshold, said content handler comprising a Layer 4 Load Balancing (L4LB) component to distribute said requests as based on a Uniform Request Locator (URL) rather than an information content of said requests.

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